

IN THE CLAIMS

1-33 (canceled)

34 (new) A modular laminate element for permanently covering a floor or a wall, said laminate including a plurality of layers of non-metallic materials, said layers comprising a closed cell foamed polyethylene central layer having a top face on which a woven and dyed wool felt material is arranged, said woven and dyed wool felt material having smear resistant properties, said central layer having a bottom face coupled to a bottom layer of a fabric material, suitable to hold a plurality of male portions of a corresponding plurality of tearable strips, said central layer, top layer and bottom layer being coupled by a thermoforming process, said central layer and top layer having hot impressed surface marks or projecting and recessed patterns, each said tearable strip projecting from said modular element to allow said modular element to be coupled to other said modular elements, each said tearable strip having a bottom face coated by an adhesive layer to allow said modular element to be permanently coupled to said floor or wall and to adjoining like modular elements.

35 (new) A method for making a non-metallic layer laminate element for permanently covering a floor or a wall, according to Claim 34, comprising the steps of hot coupling a plurality of layers including a central layer of closed cell foamed polyethylene having a top face and a bottom face, a woven and dyed

wool felt top layer, and a bottom fabric layer having a bottom surface, thermoforming coupling said central, top and bottom layers and simultaneously pressing, sealing and die-cutting said hot coupled thermoformed layers by a contoured metal mold, thereby forming, on said top layer and central layer a plurality of projecting and recessed patterns, coupling to said bottom surface of said bottom layer a plurality of tearable strips, each having a bottom face so as to cause said strips to project from said bottom face of said bottom layer, and coating the bottom face of each said strip with an adhesive layer.